

The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **52** August 1995

There's even more reason to subscribe to Amiga Shopper – we've packed 15 programs and utilities on to the Subscribers' disk.

Dear Subscriber,

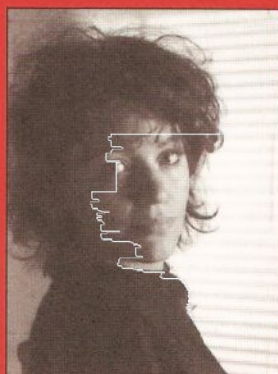
You'll be pleased to hear that Escom recently held a press conference in Frankfurt to disclose their plans for the Amiga. Amiga Shopper was there and we asked Escom when exactly Amigas will appear in the shops; how many of their 230-odd High Street stores would stock Amigas; what new Amigas they were planning for development; do they see any conflict between their PC manufacturing and the Amiga; and, well, pages and pages of other searching questions. We bring you the full story (plus some exclusive pictures) in our Special Report on page 14 of this issue.

As for the Coverdisks this month, David, our Coverdisk wizard, has worked his magic and crammed in a multitude of excellent programs and utilities. And, as subscribers, you receive your third, exclusive Subscribers' disk which is also packed with loads of great programs which should keep you busy until the next issue of AS appears.

Don't forget that we want your feedback on all the issues of Amiga Shopper – especially those magazines that we've produced since the relaunch issue of March 1995. As subscribers, I would welcome your comments on the content of the issue, what you think about the cover design and which programs you want to see on the Coverdisks. And anything else that you have a strong opinion on for that matter.

Since Escom bought Commodore International we send them copies of Amiga Shopper every month, so they will, hopefully, take note of your ideas about how you want them to develop, manufacture and market your favourite machine.

So put pen to paper and send your letters to me at Talking Shop, Amiga Shopper, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.



Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Sue Grant'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Sue Grant,
Editor.

Subscriptionsdisk

Can it be true? With the massive amount crammed on to this month's two main Coverdisks, do you still get your exclusive subscription disk?

David Taylor assures you that it is and that you do! And it's even fuller.

Welcome to our own little slice of paradise, where we, the faithful, locked away from those poor lost souls who must trudge to the newsagents every month to get their copy of AS, are rewarded with more utilities than Batman's belt. By which I mean, of course, welcome to the Subscribers' disk. To use it, simply boot the disk and, if you've got two drives, put the first Coverdisk in the other drive. This new method does require a bit of disk-swapping for those with only one drive, but it does mean that we can squeeze even more stuff on.

ExCalc

There are plenty of calculators available for the Amiga, so why would we include one here? After all, you even get a simple one supplied by WorkBench. **ExCalc** though claims to be the first calculator available for any computer which can be accurate to over 50 decimal places.

All this power is available through both a GUI and command line Interface, where not just digits, but whole equations can be calculated. As well as the convenience of functions like square and cube roots, there are full scientific, power and logarithmic operations and (does the list never end?) programming functions like 'and', 'or' and 'shift'. The calculator also has a scrolling window memory of previous calculations and results.

The guide gives a much more detailed description, as well as details of how to register this shareware version, which will allow you to customise the Interface.

Invoiceer

If you use your Amiga for business on occasions, it would be nice to be able to create invoices and keep a database of them. Well, **Invoiceer** is here to help you do exactly that. It's simple to use and even has a tutorial file to help you get to grips with it. The program requires the reqtools.library to run, which you must have installed in your system libs: drawer. If you don't have the library, don't despair, you can find it on Coverdisk 1, on the **Text Master** and **File Master 3** disk. There's even an Install icon for the library.

MFormat

It won't have escaped your notice that the Interface for Commodore's own format command is a bit useless. Well, with typical Amiga tenacity, Eric Sauvageau decided to do something about it and wrote a replacement – **MFormat**. It has an easy-to-use GUI with preferences settings. You can format all types of disks, as well as specify such options as auto-start (for multiple formats), auto-inc (for creating disks which step the name, i.e. Disk001, Disk002, etc.), create icons (for trashcans), install (to make the disk bootable), quick and verify.

I can't help but say that this is the Interface that we should have had all along and, if you agree, then don't forget you must register because **MFormat** is shareware.

MultiCX Prefs

On this month's Coverdisks you'll already have found the excellent commodity **MultiCX**. All the preferences for **MultiCX** can be altered using the tooltypes, but there's an even easier way of using this brilliant companion program. Adding a GUI to the preferences, it couldn't be easier to alter the most configurable commodity we've ever seen.

Thanks to both Martin Berndt and Michael Barsoom,

the authors of the two programs, for their help and remember to register!

Icon Deluxe

Creating icons is a great way to customise your disks and programs, but **IconEdit** (provided with Workbench) isn't exactly the most powerful program. **Icon Deluxe** brings the power of a paint package to the creation of your icons. All the tools are there including fill, box, circle, cut, paste, zoom and (here's the bit I like) the ability to add text. Again, a lot of effort has gone into this package, so, if you use it, register.

To compliment **Icon Deluxe**, we've also included another program, **PictIcon**, which allows you to drop IFF images on to its icon and converts them into icons. **Icon Deluxe** has this ability, but can only handle images up to 400x400, but **PictIcon** is designed specifically for this purpose and will scale them for you.

DOSMan

AmigaDOS is one of the best things about the Amiga. Although it can be daunting at first, the ease-of-use of the Shell brings a new level of power to users. If you've ever had the displeasure of using MS-DOS, then you'll know how relaxing it is to slip back to the Amiga's Operating System. Even so, we all need to refer to the manual from time to time, if only to confirm our thoughts. Now, however, it's easier, because Peter Bagnato has created this on-line manual. MUI users have an Interface provided, but standard users can use the volume as an AmigaGuide. It's essential reading.

ShellBench

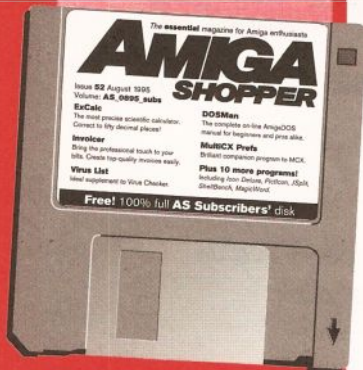
Executing a command from Workbench is possible, but how about a whole new update to the 'Execute command' with a GUI and a multitude of options? You guessed it, here's **ShellBench**. To use it, install the program and the necessary library, which can be done with the Install icon, but make sure you have over 100K free in SYS:

And the rest...

Phew! That's the briefest of guides to what's on this month's Subscribers' disk, but I haven't finished yet, because there's more to mention. There's **Lens**, which is a magnifier for Workbench or any screen – very useful for aligning icons, or making detailed changes. I must also mention **MClock**, the tiny clock program that includes an alarm function with reminders that can be entered. Simply boot the program, activate it and click on the right mouse button to enter the options screen. Oh, and there's **Virus List**, which details all the archives you should avoid and makes an ideal supplement to **Virus Checker** (on this month's Coverdisks) to help you keep your Amiga safe. **JSplit** is also on here, which enables you to split large files down into smaller denominations to allow you to fit it on to floppy disks.

Then there's **MagicWord**, a macro recorder that can be invoked in any program, allowing you to record and use macro short-cuts in programs that don't normally have the facility. And last, but by no means least, there's **Mass** and **Diff**, two CLI commands that respectively allow you to do multiple assign and directory creation, and to examine the difference between two seemingly identical files.

All of which brings the total amount of data on this month's three Amiga Shopper disks to a staggering 6Mb! Until next month, have fun! ■



- **ExCalc**
- **Invoiceer**
- **MFormat**
- **MultiCX Prefs**
- **Icon Deluxe**
- **PictIcon**
- **DOSMan**
- **ShellBench**
- **Lens**
- **MClock**
- **Virus List**
- **JSplit**
- **MagicWord**
- **Mass**
- **Diff**

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